Wage cut for plantation labour

1262. SHRI K. B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea planters in the south have enforced a wage cut of 11 per cent for the plantation labour;

(b) whether the plantation workers have been forced to sign productivity agreements with a penal clause;

(c) whether Government apprehend that the planters community in Assam, Darjeeling etc. would follow suit thereby curtailing the wages of its workforce; and

(d) whether Government would intervene in the matter to ensure a fair deal for the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Medical/Insurance facilities to unorganised workers

†1263. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to organise and provide medical and insurance facilities etc. to the labourers of unorganised sector on the line of such facilities being provided to the labourers of organised sector; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) About 92% of the total labour force in the country falls in the unorganised sector. Some of the difficulties experienced in bringing the workers of unorganised sector

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

under medical and insurance schemes on the pattern of organised sector include nature of work, absence of employer-employee relationship, migratory nature of such labour, etc. However, concerted efforts have been made by the Government from time to time to extend insurance and other facilities to the workers within the unorganised sector through legislative measures and programmes by following segmental approach such as setting up of welfare funds for beedi, cine and mine workers, Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001 for landless agricultural labour, 'Janshree Bima Yojana' of LIC for persons below and marginally above poverty line.

Opposition to amendment of labour laws

1264. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre of Indian Trade Union alongwith other major Central Trade Unions have opposed the proposed amendments to labour laws;

(b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has proposed many changes in the labour laws to the Union Government;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have considered these suggestions made by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister in labour laws; and

(d) by when a final decision, in this regard, is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Central Trade Union Organisations have been generally opposing amendments in labour laws unless these are perceived as beneficial to the working class.

(b) to (d) The Central Government have received some amendment proposals relating to Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Factories Act, 1948 from Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government has already initiated the process of carrying out labour reforms through amendments of certain important labour Acts including Industrial Disputes Act and the Factories Act. Given the